

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

FIELD PAINTING GALVALUME SHEETS

Galvalume sheet has a bright, distinctive spangled appearance which is pleasing in its own right and has very good protective properties in the atmosphere. It can be painted if a painted appearance is desired with many of the paints which are recommended for galvanized sheet. To paint Galvalume good coating practice should be observed as with painting any surface. The areas to be painted should be dry and clean of visible soil, grease, oil or other contaminants. The following paints are suggested for field painting Galvalume. All of the listed coatings will give good results. However, the exterior acrylic latex paints are the easiest to obtain and apply and are recommended for most applications.

Zinc Dust-Zinc Oxide in Oil Primers. These have been used with good success over galvanized for many years and are available from many paint companies, as Federal Specification TT-P-641 Type 1 or in proprietary formulations. They have a pleasing grey matte appearance or may be obtained in a number of dull shades and can be used as decorative systems in their own right. If a white or a bright color is desired they may be top coated with many available exterior paints. A disadvantage is that most are supplied in two containers, with the zinc dust in a separate pail requiring mixing with the binder before use.

Exterior Acrylic Latex Paints: These are widely available as off-the-shelf items from many paint suppliers and can be obtained in a variety of colors. Formulations recommended by the supplier for painting galvanized sheet should be used.

Butyral- Wash Primers: Wash primers are applied in very thin films, about 0.3 mils, to promote the adhesion of topcoats. They are never used by themselves and require top coating for protection as well as for decoration. These are available from many suppliers, but often not as an off-the-shelf item. They require better metal preparation -- removal of oils, soil and contaminants -- than do the other recommended paints. They may be top coated with many available exterior paints. Adhesion of wash primers may be poor over mill-applied passivation treatments to inhibit wet storage staining. The Galvalume should be allowed to weather, three to six months depending on the amount of rainfall, to remove the mill passivation before painting with wash primer.

Asphaltic Coatings: These are usually compounded with a fibrous pigment such as asbestos to improve toughness and make them less sensitive to heat from sunlight. They may also contain aluminum or other pigments to change their color from the black of the asphalt. Whites and very light shades are not available with asphaltic coatings, however. We caution that while we have had good results painting Galvalume with asphalt-based coatings we do not have as much experience with these, either in the number of coatings investigated or in the length of exposure, as we do with the other coating types listed. Wet storage stain, the dark staining which can occur on Galvalume as the result of rain or condensation being trapped between sheets in bundles of closely nested panels, can be painted with the paints listed above. The dark stain need not be removed before painting.